

Searchers find girl dead

By BRUCE SOLEBERG

Herald Staff Writer

22 June 1986

"I just more or less thought I was dead — that's all.... That's all there is to it."

David Boren, 17, of Provo, expressed his thoughts one day after an auto in which he was a passenger veered off Utah 189 and into the Provo River Friday night.

A 12-year-old Roosevelt girl was killed and five teens were injured in the accident.

"I was in the passenger side back seat," Boren said. "I don't even know how I got out."

Boren said the car was traveling east on the controversial U.S. 189 when the driver, Troy Gregersen of Roosevelt, suddenly swerved to the left and then to the right.

"We were driving up the canyon — all mellow — and all I know is he swerved left and swerved right and we flipped over into the river," said Boren.

Skid marks at the scene show the car was driving down the wrong side of the road through a series of "S" turns just East of Bridal Veil

Falls, said the Utah Highway Patrol.

A driver in a westbound auto had to go off the road to avoid hitting the careening car.

"They (the other driver and passengers) reported the driver was driving very erratically," said Trooper Kirk Middaugh of the Utah State Highway Patrol.

When the vehicle veered off the side of the road, it struck a tree and landed in the water, said Middaugh.

The car, a 1972 Plymouth Duster, was completely submerged and upside down. The river is more than 6-feet-deep at that spot, according to Middaugh.

"I just more or less thought I was dead — that's all there is to it," said Boren. "When we started rolling over off into the river everybody just put their hands on the roof."

"We turned over and water rushed in, I found an air pocket, but I don't know how I got out."

Boren said the other five people in the car had come to visit him in

Provo and asked him if he wanted return with them to Roosevelt.

Five of the people in the car were discovered and pulled out of the water.

However, Tonya Smith, 12, was discovered dead three miles downstream about 8 hours after the accident occurred.

The other passengers were identified as Kennie Lee Hudson, 16, of Roosevelt; Ben Bushman, 17, of Provo; Wendy Curtis, 15, of Roosevelt and Boren, 17, of Provo, the trooper said.

Before going off the road Gregersen's car almost hit a westbound vehicle, according to Middaugh.

The people in that vehicle stopped and pulled the accident victims out of the river, Middaugh said.

Provo search and rescue crews probed the river for hours before finding and retrieving the body of Tonya Smith at about 5 a.m. Saturday morning, a dispatcher said. The accident occurred about 9:30 p.m. in Provo Canyon a half-mile east of Bridal Veil Falls.

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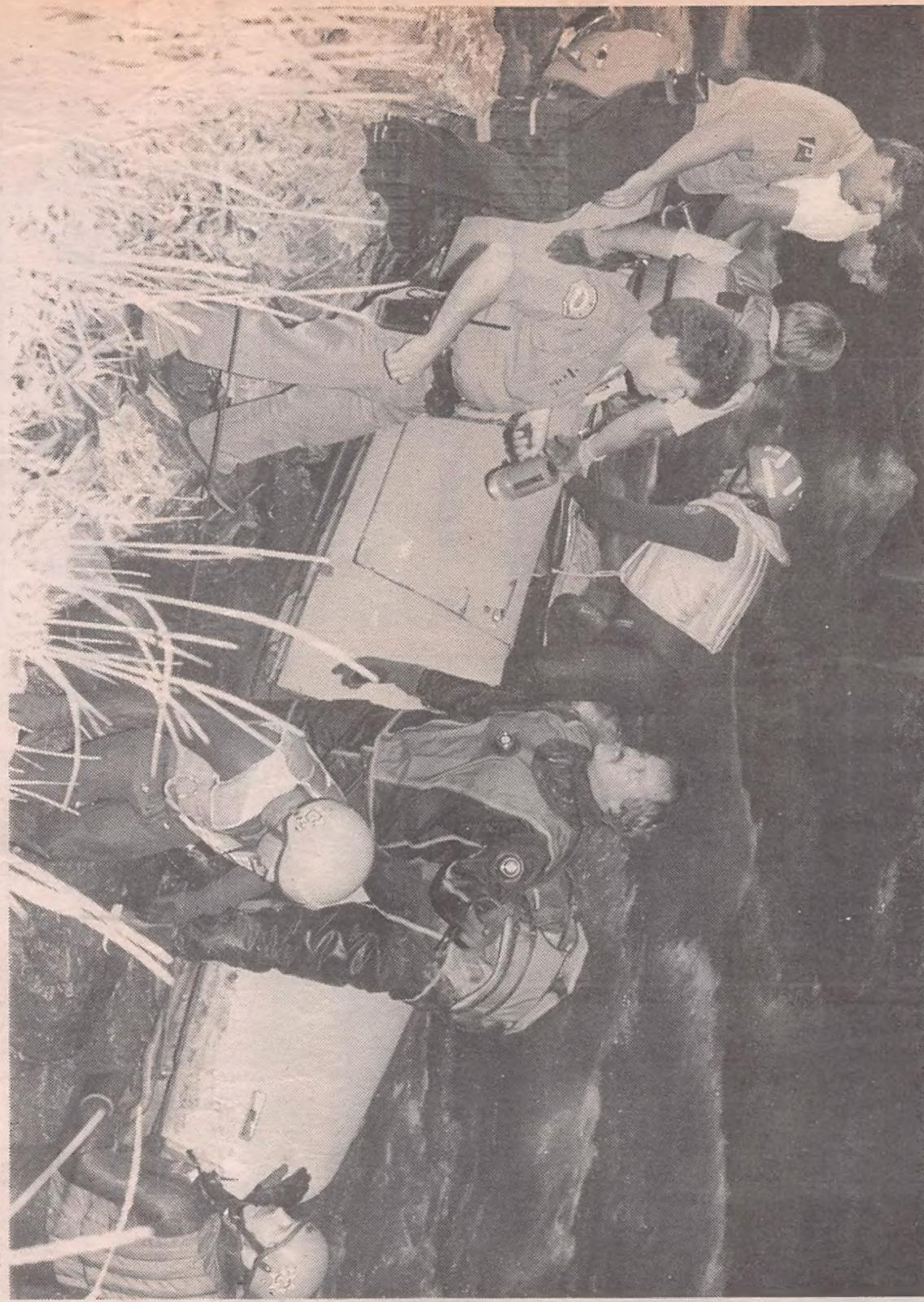
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Researchers rush to find a missing 12-year-old girl immediately after the accident.

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"Ten parts per million is allowed and they're down about 0.1," Miner said. "They could go up 100 times what they are and be still just barely passing."

But, he said, if health officials note any rise at all, it would be an indication the nitric acid leak is affecting the wells.

"If it is to rise, we expect it would rise gradually and we'd find out before it reached an unsafe level," he said, "but we can't be sure of that and that's why were advising against using the water for infants."

The water supplied from Spanish Fork City has been determined safe.

The warning resulted after nitric acid leaked into soil around a holding pond at the explosives manufacturing plant at the junction of Highway 6 and 89.

"Our advisory remains the same," Dr. Joseph Miner, director of the county health department, said Saturday. "We haven't found any problem with the water, but because there could arise a problem were advising those with young children under one-year old not to use water from their wells, but to use city water from Spanish Fork.

He said the advisory only applied to private well users within two miles.

Zola McFadden is making pies at 80.



Brian Tregaskis Photos
with her roller to work over the special pie dough.

Orem wants water users to report pressure problems

Orem residents who are still experiencing serious water pressure problems should call Orem City Public Works so that the proper valve adjustments can be made.

Some residents in the Northeast Orem area were reporting low pressure this morning, but Orem City crews are already making adjustments at valves located throughout the city, according to Chet Kocherhans, water and waste water division manager for the city.

Calls from Orem water users can often help city engineers pinpoint

the problem areas. Residents should be using about 50 percent of normal use today and 75 percent tomorrow, with full capacity use expected for Sunday.

Q. Approx. How many students attend the 15 elementary schools, 3 junior highs, and 2 high schools in Orem?

A. Over 15,000
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